

Restoring Our Museum for Our Children – Overview

Updated January 2012

The Museum moved to its current location at the heart of the Seattle Center in 1986, creating new exhibits along the way. In 1995, a capital campaign allowed the Museum to expand to the 22,000 sq feet that it is today. Since those renovations were completed, over 3.2 million guests have played, pushed, opened and closed, dropped, rolled, picked up, put down, built, crawled into, peeked around, and simply loved the Museum. It's no surprise that the Museum shows the signs of the wear and tear.

The current objectives of the exhibits inside our Museum have stood the test of time and continue to provide age-appropriate learning for our children. However, the exhibits are worn. Some areas only require paint and elbow grease, yet for others it would be more cost effective to remove sections and update with new elements.

The purpose of this list is to create a narrative, based off our Master Project List, that allows those outside of the Museum to engage in our process of restoration.

These are not listed in priority order - this is a walking tour through the Museum. We have a complete budget per area to determine a pragmatic, cost effective approach to a full renovation of the Museum. The Museum is actively seeking partners who will join us in this restoration project. Our goal is to match the exhibit/restoration project with the passions of the person or organization who is willing to help.

Museum Exterior and Museum-wide

- Updated exterior signage to match new logo and website
- Refresh interior “bird” art to support the addition of a bird-watching programming throughout the Museum. This includes, hopefully, repurposing our outdoor “bird” art to inside
- Updated signage to match new logo around mountain opening
- Improve caregiver seating – repair and replace
- Improve security – new alarms at all exits with delayed response timers tied to the Seattle Center; add alarms and change to emergency exit only by existing retail shop; add camera surveillance

Curiosity Corner Programming Space **THIS PROJECT IS CURRENTLY 50% COMPLETE**

The desire is to switch the art studio to this room, providing natural light, larger space, and fully activated area for hallway visibility. The programming currently scheduled for Curiosity Corner would move to the current art studio space (see separate listing).

- Pull carpet, replace with painted concrete floor
- Install child/adult sink (already sketched and estimated by Bargreen Ellingson)
- Install improved “drying” racks
- Add more paint easel stations
- Install developmental area for 0-5
- Improve storage shelf for more recycle resources for recycled sculptures
- Install computer for lobby viewing of continuous loop to recognize our sponsors

Greeter's Desk Area

- Switch entrance/exit for greater security
- Customize greeter area with riser or adjusted height counters
- Upgrade entrance area for added security and blend in birthday/group entrance

Birthday Party Rooms

All three are in very good shape because they are some of the newest upgrades. Very low priority would be to add drop ceilings for noise control and visitor experience.

Front Bathrooms

- Family Bathroom – Minimal plumbing changes, paint, new counter laminate
- Add large photos of children exploring Museum Exhibits

Staff Workroom

- Stacking washer/dryer to create more space with proper ventilation
- Lower counter pulled and rebuilt to house a sanitizer instead of the current home-grade dishwasher (already sketched and estimated by Bargreen Ellingson)
- Paint

Front Stroller Parking

This becomes programming area so it can be in the "middle" of museum-life rather than tucked away in annex. Annex then becomes available for multi-purpose room to include stroller parking.

- Remove old letters, paint, add industrial carpet squares and photo collages of TCM teams
- Add rolling child-size "platforms" to create stage for artist and community play for children

Imagination Studio (Art Studio)

As previously discussed, this programming moved to Curiosity Corner. This area becomes programming space in the middle of the Museum for heightened awareness and easier "joining in" by those passing by.

- Repair/paint glass doors – Red Doors - **COMPLETE**
- Add Industrial carpet squares
- Replace laminate on adult-size only sink
- Add lighting into storage to allow programming materials to be stored here
- Possibly add a drop ceiling
- Add a development corner for 0-5 yr olds

Cog City Exhibit

Cog City is one of our highest use exhibits. The water-wall needs to be removed and replaced by a cog-drive water table. The roller coaster wall has a two-level solution, dependent on funding.

- Paint back wall
- Modify roller coaster wall – (1) more gravity tubes, (\$1,500) OR (2) MindSplash Airball system (\$35,000)
- Repair/replace items on the ball conveyor belt
- Remove musical balls and replace with metal/magnetic gear walls
- Remove dexterity ball area and determine replacement options



- Paint, add labels and caregiver signage
- Repair, paint and add plastic gear tables in current developmental 0-5 area

South Annex

- Add signage
- Needs additional light canisters

Foyer to South Annex

- Create bird watching scavenger center for bird-watching throughout Museum

Global Village Exhibit Entrance

- Create Travel Agency where boat is, (move boat over between mountain and Seaside room)
 - Add world wall map where visitors can add where they are from
 - Add indigenous animals component
 - Add child-size seating
 - Update books on countries
 - Add books on indigenous animals to countries
- Pull out block counter to create “audience” bench for world puppet stage
 - Add developmental area for 0 - 5
 - Modify counters for backstage area
- Add either (1) video-feed of the puppet show area (2) books and maps or (3) magnetic cultural costumes
- Add Industrial carpet squares AND international children rugs

Ghana Exhibit

- Incorporate learning regarding water filtration and micro-lending
- Need ideas for floor with an authentic look
- Re-skin drums (those on exhibit and those in storage) **75% complete**
- Modify shops to encourage more interaction
- Add Signage
- Fix video box and add specific costumes as shown on video
- Add more outside cooking items
- Create nursing area by back storage room, where mother can still see children playing in the Ghana house
- Incorporate indigenous animals

Philippines Exhibit

Keep existing construction, yet change the learning focus on the home to education world-wide; and the open-air restaurant to health and medical opportunities world-wide.

- Add school supplies, authentic school atmosphere, medical supplies, authentic medical atmosphere
- Repair scooter and use new video for child to pretend they are a doctor traveling to provide health care, or maybe a teacher, or maybe – let their imagination create
- Incorporate indigenous animals
- Possibly modify flooring



- Modify courtyard area to include information about global agriculture
- Add developmental area for 0-5 yr olds

Kobe, Japan Exhibit

- Create more distinctive “entrance” to Kobe, both on the city street side and the city park side
- Modify flooring while preserving icon plates
- Small shop – Update papers and food item
- Sushi shop – paint, replace plexi, and add more food
- House – paint, replace bedding, and update items in kitchen
- House – update area that can explore homes world-wide
- Exterior playground – explore ideas, repaint, and incorporate indigenous animals
- Add developmental area for 0-5 yr olds
- Fix video in bus

Global Village Exhibit Overall

- Paint ceiling
- New flooring through-out
- New entrance

Mountain Exhibit

The mountain is a larger project than just the exhibit because it needs to include new signage, as well as a new railing system in conjunction with the Seattle Center.

- Railing needs to be addressed to prevent upstairs floor trash to come down; as well as safety hazard for folks to lean over and accidently drop items over
- Massive cleaning now that bird issues have been mitigated by the Seattle Center. This cleaning is 50% complete, yet needs deeper solutions to aid in consistent maintenance
- Complete small plumbing project to assist in bird control
- Complete repair/repaint of mountain and painted scenery
- Replace all trees, with desire that the largest tree is also a reading tree house
- Update signage, as well as expand signage to provide caregiver tips on parks available for exploration in their own neighborhoods
- New camping awnings and camping equipment
- Repair slide and log, with appropriate landings
- Update “bug finds” and tree base for safer exploration
- New bat and animal capes

Storytelling Circle Exhibit

- Add full wall of bookcases and some child-size items
- Create TCM library system
- Remove “tent” and replace with child-size reading nook
- Repaint murals and throne



Discovery Bay Exhibit

Discovery Bay is great developmentally and simply needs a good upgrade, repaint and refurbish of all items.

- Add Industrial carpet square
- Use different, bold color for ½ step to prevent falls
- Create nursing area in the back corner where mother can still see siblings play
- Add soft sculptures
- Replace seaweed
- Add birds
- Add fish shaped mirrors for child-recognition development behind water table
- Expand fish tank
- Remove old slide and replace with modular climber, to provide flexibility and easy change-out

Back Bathrooms

- Paint/repair walls
- Professional deep clean of tile
- Re-laminate counters
- Add photos of children in Museum Exhibits

Neighborhood Entrance

An overarching goal for the neighborhood is to have each area be a child-size version of a real place in the community.

- Add literacy/writing focus area
- Post Office – expanded with real post office supplies and counter for someone to be the post office worker, to receive child-created letters
- Stop light – needs new chip
- Fire Engine – needs “fire engine dash board” along with radio.
- Bus –
 - Life size photos for bus stop to cover the 3 wall around the bus
 - New gas handle to go into existing (repainted) gas pump, to include digital or some other upgrade to the gallons/pricing
 - Add developmental 0-5 space
- Upgrade flooring (cobblestone, concrete/asphalt street look)

Metropolitan Market Grocery Store Exhibit

Metropolitan Market has been great in providing many items for this space, including complete replacement items. Therefore the following items are the responsibility of the Museum.

- Add Signage
- Add bread display
- Incorporate Scanner system to include chips
- Add sorting bins, updated food (especially meat), bags and labeling for scanning use
- Fresh flower Area - **Complete**
- Add drop ceiling
- Add Developmental 0-5 area

Dunn Lumber Construction Zone Exhibit

COMPLETED

Bijou Theater Exhibit

We have \$7,500 designated funding for this project from an outside donor and will need an additional \$20,000 to complete the project.

- Add Exterior signage – poster boxes for theater’s current showings as well as book backdrops
- Add industrial carpet squares
- Replace curtains, repair painted backdrop
- Add Costuming for use with painted book backdrops
- Add 30 “capas” for costumes
- Seating – paint current or replace
- Create “dressing room” with 4-6 dressing table areas, complete with mirrors and rope lighting. Add hooks for safe hanging of capas
- Current “backstage” – improve lighting, add shelving for props, add small scenery props
- New stage lighting and sound board
- From the “sound board”, create method for on-stage digital pictures to be taken and emailed home
- Add developmental 0-5 area

La Cocina de Cacco Restaurant Exhibit

Space currently being evaluated for new exhibit. Sponsor response pending.

North Annex

Change to multi-purpose room to include stroller parking, elementary-size cafeteria style tables/benches that can fold and be put away.

- Purchase Pipe and Drape to cover aged folding screen (could be utilized in other areas of the Museum as well)
- Purchase elementary cafeteria-style folding table/bench

The Gallery Space

- Paint Walls
- Add additional lighting

Administrative Offices

- Add bookcases for wall in conference room
- Replace carpet in select areas